



CRISPUS ATTUCKS CHARTER SCHOOL

“PREPARING STUDENTS TO BECOME MENTALLY TOUGH”

EST. 1999

**605 SOUTH DUKE STREET
YORK PENNSYLVANIA 17401**

Phone 717-848-3610 FAX 717-699-2453

Mrs. Jacqueline Martino-Miller
CEO

www.crispusattucks.org

September 6, 2016

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

On August 20, 2013, the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) received waivers from ten requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965, as amended by No Child Left Behind (NCLB) of 2001. However, ESEA/NCLB still requires that parents or guardians who have children attending a Title I school be notified of the school's academic achievement as well as the school's designation under Pennsylvania's ESEA Flexibility Waiver. This letter is intended to provide additional information concerning the options available to your child under Pennsylvania's ESEA Flexibility Waiver and to help you understand what the waiver will mean for you and your child.

Beginning with the 2013 – 2014 school year, PDE will no longer use Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) to determine a school's designation. Instead, in accordance with the ESEA Flexibility Waiver, PDE will use four Annual Measurable Objectives (AMOs) to designate the Title I school as Reward – High Achievement, Reward – High Progress, Priority, or Focus schools. The four AMOs include: measuring test participation rate; graduation/attendance rate; closing the achievement gap for all students; and closing the achievement gap for the historically underperforming students. In addition, all public schools in the state will receive a School Performance Profile score based on 100 points. This score will be considered the school's academic performance score, and while not the criteria for determination of Reward, Priority or Focus status, it details student performance through scoring of multiple measures that define achievement. The School Performance Profile also includes supports to permit schools to access materials and resources to improve in defined areas related to achievement.

Despite the progress made by our students, Crispus Attucks Charter School has been designated as a Focus School for the 2016 – 2017 school year. This designation was based on the graduation rate data from the 2012 – 2013 school year of 36% and our school will keep this designation for three years. Our graduation rate for 2015-2016 improved to 42% for 2014-2015 it was 38%, but with our new programming we expect the rate to increase this coming school year.

Focus Schools are 10 percent of the lowest Title I schools based on the highest achievement gap for the Historically Low Performing students' AMO. The aggregate achievement gap is determined by the combined Mathematics/Reading PSSA scores and/or the Algebra 1/Literature Keystone Exam scores. [They can also be a Title I high school with a graduation rate less than 60](#)

The Crispus Attucks Charter School will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, or disability.

[percent](#); or have a test participation rate below 95 percent and are not identified as a Priority School.

Crispus Attucks Charter School has been identified as a Focus School due to the low graduation rate reported to PDE. Graduation rate is a measure of the number of students who graduate high school within 4 years with the students they entered high school with as freshmen. For example, if a student entered the 9th grade in Fall 2013, they would be expected to graduate in Spring 2017. If a student is retained during their high school career, or leaves high school at any time, this means that the student will not graduate “on – time”. Many of the students who attend Crispus Attucks Charter School fall into these categories, meaning that our graduation rate is affected, not the home district the student attending prior to their enrollment.

As a Focus School, we will work collaboratively with parents/guardians, our community and our partnering school district offices to develop a school turnaround plan which will implement interventions to respond to the specific needs of improving the performance of our low-performing student subgroups. Students who accumulate 3 unexcused absences from school will be placed on a contract through their assigned case manager. Research tells us that attendance rates are a very telling indicator of a student’s academic success. Students must be present each day to receive instruction and earn participation grades for their academic work, as well as their work on the service site. Student attendance rates will be measured over the course of many weeks and we would expect to see gains in the area of attendance, where low attendance was first identified. Our target for each student is at least an 85% daily attendance rate. For 2012-2013 our attendance rate was 70%; for 2013-2014 it was 69%; for 2014-2015 it was 70%; last school year the attendance rate was 74%.

An important part of the success plan for Crispus Attucks is parent/guardian participation and support in developing activities to improve student achievement and attendance. We hope that, as a parent/guardian, you will become involved in our school improvement initiatives as we continue to monitor student achievement and set high expectations. If you are interested in participating in developing our school improvement initiatives, contact me at 717-848-3610, extension 262 or via my e-mail at jmartino@crispusattucks.org.

Thank you for all that you do to support your child’s education and we look forward to working with you.

Best,

Jacqueline Martino-Miller
CEO